

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT:MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ELLIOT
RICHARDSON TO JOHN O. LOGAN AND U.S.-IRAN JOINT BUSINESS
COUNCIL

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY
RICHARDSON TO JOHN O. LOGAN, U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN, U.S.-IRAN
JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL.
2. DEAR MR. LOGAN: IN MY SHORT TIME AT THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE I HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS
FOR ASSISTING U.S. BUSINESS WITH COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN
THE MIDDLE EAST. AS YOU KNOW, COMMERCE HAS BEEN VERY
ACTIVE IN SUPPORTING THE JOINT COMMISSIONS THAT HAVE
BEEN FORMED WITH KEY COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION, IN ADDITION
TO GREATLY INCREASING THE SIZE OF OUR REGULAR TRADE
PROMOTION PROGRAMS.
3. IN KEEPING WITH THIS COMMITMENT I HAVE DRAFTED A SHORT
NOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES ON THE
OCCASION OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT
BUSINESS COUNCIL MARCH 1 IN TEHRAN. I WOULD APPRECIATE
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YOUR DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE TO BOTH THE U.S. AND IRANIAN

DELEGATIONS. AS ONE OF THE MORE VISIBLE PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION, SUCCESSFUL JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES WILL PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHER EFFORTS TO FORGE CLOSER ECONOMIC, AS WELL AS POLITICAL TIES, BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FULLY SUPPORTS THE COUNCIL AND ITS GOALS.

4. JIM BAKER HAS TOLD ME OF THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH YOU ACCEPTED THE U.S. CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL, AND THE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF HARD WORK YOU HAVE PUT INTO MAKING THE COUNCIL A SUCCESS. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A PERSONAL NOTE OF THANKS TO YOU FOR THE HIGH QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP YOU HAVE PROVIDED TO THIS PROGRAM. SINCERELY, ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON

5. ATTACHMENT: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON TO THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL, TEHRAN, MARCH 1, 1976

6. IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH I AM UNABLE TO DO SO IN PERSON, JOHN LOGAN, U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN, HAS KINDLY CONSENTED TO PRESENT THIS MESSAGE IN MY STEAD, AND I THANK HIM.

7. THROUGHOUT HISTORY, COMMERCE AND TRADE HAVE BEEN THE PRIMARY FOUNDATIONS FOR AMICABLE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS. IRAN, NOW MOVING THROUGH ITS TWENTY-SIXTH CENTURY AS A MEMBER OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY, AND THE U.S. JUST CELEBRATING ITS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY, HAVE MANY MUTUAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND GOALS. THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL, WHICH YOU HAVE FORMED, IS AN EXCELLENT VEHICLE FOR ACHIEVING THESE GOALS BY PROMOTING STRONG AND PERMANENT TIES BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. YOU WILL INEVITABLY ENCOUNTER OBSTACLES TO YOUR PROGRAMS, BUT I ENCOURAGE

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YOU NOT TO BE DEFEATED BY TEMPORARY SETBACKS.

8. THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL, COMPOSED AS IT IS OF OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE U.S. AND IRANIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITIES, CAN PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP TO THE BROADER BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES FOR CEMENTING TRADE AND INVESTMENT TIES. THE COUNCIL CAN BE THE VEHICLE WHICH WILL ELIMINATE PROBLEMS OF INADEQUATE INFORMATION

FLOWS ON BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
THE U.S. SECTION CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL,

MANAGEMENT, AND ADVISORY CAPABILITIES, WHILE THE IRANIAN
SECTION CAN IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO EMPLOY THESE
CAPABILITIES, AND, IN THIS PROCESS, UTILIZE AND DEVELOP
IRAN'S MASSIVE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL.

9. IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE ALL BEEN MADE
ACUTELY AWARE THAT THE WORLD ECONOMY IS VERY SMALL, AND
THAT WE ARE ALL DEPENDENT ON ONE ANOTHER. IT IS
ENCOURAGING TO ME THAT PRIVATE CITIZENS ARE JOINING
TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF
THIS INTERDEPENDENCE AND TO DEVELOP POSITIVE PROGRAMS.
BE ASSURED THAT THE FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU UPON REQUEST, AND THAT
YOU HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN YOUR
EFFORTS.

10. I REGARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE U.S.-IRAN
JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL AS AN IMPORTANT INSTANCE OF U.S.-
IRANIAN COOPERATION. THE OPPORTUNITIES DEVELOPED, THE
PROJECTS COMPLETED, AND THE GOALS ACHIEVED BY THE
COUNCIL WILL SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER BILATERAL
PROGRAMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN.

11. GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL. ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON INGERSOLL

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